The Brooklyn Paper

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Photo by Josiah Shelton

Good day for fins

Nobody was gonna rain on *our* parade. Hundreds of thousands of Brooklynites swarmed Coney Island on June 20 for the annual Mermaid Parade — despite showers and cloudy skies.

CAR QUASH!

Vehicles banned from half of Prospect Park

MEAN Streets

The battle for Brooklyn's byways

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Baby you can't drive your car.

The city is putting the brakes on vehicles in Brooklyn's Backyard, announcing last Thursday that it is banning automobiles from Prospect Park's West Drive as of next month.

Downtown-bound motorists will still be able drive through the park's East Drive between 7 and 9 am on weekdays, but its Park Slope-side counterpart, which is currently open to Coney Island-bound traffic from 5 to 7 pm on weekdays, will soon be a car-free zone. As of July 6, Brooklyn's cyclists and pedestrians will be able to cruise the West Drive asphalt at any hour of the day, free from the fear that they will end up as road-kill, said Mayor DeBlasio.

"Today, we're taking a big step to returning our parks to the people," said the mayor, who has been advocating for fewer cars in the park since his days as a city councilman. "We're creating safe zones for kids to play in, for bikers, for joggers, for everyone to know that they will be safer and they can enjoy the park in peace."

Transit honchos say they're confident the closure will not result in rush-hour traffic jams in surrounding neighborhoods — about 200 cars an hour travel through West Drive when it is open, which nearby streets should be able to absorb with minimal headaches, said Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg.

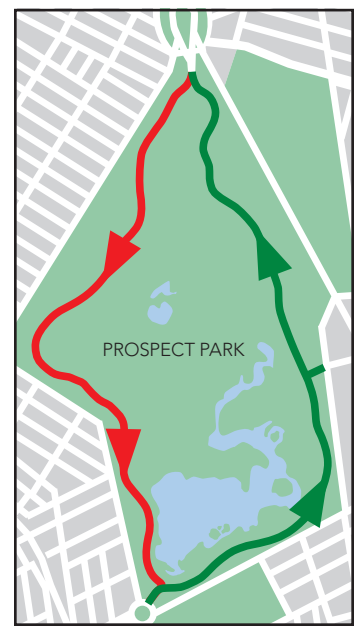
DeBlasio announced the change in conjunction with a similar plan for Manhattan's Central Park, a large swathe of greenery in the middle of the island.

Community activists have for years demanded the city ban traffic from New York's premier parklands. Transit advocates welcomed today's news, but said they won't stop fighting until both parks are 100-percent car-free.

"As we celebrate this great milestone today, we also look forward to the day when both parks are completely car-free, and we will continue our advocacy work until that happens," said Paul Steely White, executive director of anti-car group Transportation Alternatives.

Photo by Paul Martinka

Mayor DeBlasio wants you … to stop driving on Prospect Park's West Drive. DeBlasio announced at a press conference on June 18 that the street will go car-free as of July 6.



West Drive (red line on map) is no longer open to cars. East Drive (green line) remains open for northbound traffic in the morning rush.

Cops collar alleged slumlord

State: Crown Heights landlord tried to freeze rent-stabilized tenants out

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The landlord of a Crown Heights building illegally tore down his rent-stabilized tenants' interior walls, cut their heat in the dead of winter, and exposed the renters — including a 6-year-old child — to dangerous lead dust in order to force them out of their homes, says the state's top lawman.

Authorities last Wednesday arrested and indicted Daniel Melamed for unlawful eviction and child endangerment as part of what state and local pols say is a city-wide crackdown on unscrupulous landlords.

"Today's charges send a strong message to landlords across New York City: if you harass, intimidate, or jeopardize the health and safety of your tenants, we will come after you with the full force of the law," said state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who hosted a press conference outside the boarded-up building at the corner of Union Street and Troy Avenue.

The arrest is the first big collar for the city and state's new task force against tenant harassment. The special slumlord unit — which combines the powers of several building and housing agencies — started its investigation into Melamed's 14-unit building in February and slowly gathered the evidence it needed to make the arrest, said Schneiderman.

According to the indictment, Melamed bought the building in 2012 and offered the current tenants money to leave. When they refused, he allegedly set about making their living conditions unbearable. Melamed shut off the heat and hot water several times last winter while he performed illegal demolition on the property, and left occupants breathing in toxic levels of lead-paint dust, prosecutors allege. The air quality was so bad that tenants were forced to stuff wet towels in the cracks of their doors to keep the dust out of their apartments, Schneiderman said.

Inspectors found more than 200 violations in the Union Street building and officials had to arrange for emergency repairs so that the remaining tenants could safely stay in their homes, Schneiderman said.

Melamed is now facing up to four years in prison. In addition to the eviction and child endangerment charges, he is also accused of filing false documents with the city that said the building was vacant during construction, so inspectors wouldn't come a-knocking. His builder Pirooz Soltanizadeh was also arrested and charged for his alleged involvement in the scheme.

Melamed owns and manages

*See **TENANTS** on page 9*

Photo by Jason Speakman

Prosecutors say landlord Daniel Melamed tried to harass his rent-stabilized tenants out of this Crown Heights building by cutting heat and knocking down walls.

Community News Group / Ruth Brown

Downtown dwellers will have to find somewhere new to eat their lunch, because Borough Hall Plaza is a mess.

Losing our lunch spot

D'town dining site closed as city rips up plaza

By Eric Faynberg
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Stoop is closed for lunch.

The parks department has reduced Borough Hall Plaza to a pile of rubble after ripping up the crumbling tiles that have long plagued visitors to the public square, closing Downtown's most popular day-time dining area in the process.

But the Borough President said the local workers who congregate on and around the landmarked steps to his office will just have to find somewhere else to eat their gyros, because fixing the dangerous paving is more important.

"I made it a priority on day one of my administration to address this safety hazard, and the sound of jackhammers going to work on long-needed renovations is music to my ears," said the Beep, who suggested diners enjoy their lunch further down the street in Cadman Plaza or on the other side of Boerum Place in Willoughby Square.

The city is replacing the 28-year-old broken bluestone tiles with sturdier granite versions as part of a $12-million makeover of the area officially known as Columbus Park, which is bounded by Joralemon, Court, Johnson, and Adams streets and Cadman Plaza West. The shabby stone slabs have been tripping up Brooklynites for years, including a 71-year-old woman who fractured her hip in 2010 after catching her toe on one of the cracks.

Contractors literally broke ground on the renovations this month, but the entire project won't be completed until September 2016. A Parks spokeswoman said she did not know when the area around the steps would re-open to the lunch crowd.

When the plaza doesn't have a giant hole in the middle of it, the Court-Livingston-Schemerhorn Business Improvement District keeps it furnished with tables and chairs during daylight hours. The park is also variously home to a thrice-weekly greenmarket, press conferences for the Borough President, protests, film shoots, a Christmas market, the Brooklyn Book Festival, and the borough's second-tallest menorah.

Community News Group / Eric Faynberg

Dangerous bluestone at Borough Hall is being replaced.

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Salvage garden

Temporary park returns to Williamsburg

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

They're digging it up again.

A short-lived park that blossomed next to the old Domino Sugar factory near the Williamsburg waterfront last summer is re-sprouting across the road, after the developer that owns the site offered to let community groups use more of its unoccupied space.

The public garden will eventually have to cede its seeds back to Two Trees Management Company when the luxury housing group wants to start building on the new site — as it did with its previous location. But organizers say a temporary garden is better than no garden at all in a neighborhood that is increasingly starved for green-space.

"We think that is it valuable even for the short time that it will be here," said Ryan Watson, co-founder of community garden-creator North Brooklyn Farms. "When you see a smile on a child's face when they come here, it is hard to say that it is not worth it."

Two Trees, which is slowly building a complex of residential and office towers along the waterfront, is loaning the lot at Kent Avenue between S. Third and S. Fifth streets to North Brooklyn Farms and Williamsburg bike shop Ride Brooklyn for free for a year, but told Watson that they will likely be able to use the land for three years before it needs the lot back. Two Trees intends to build its own open space on the site, Watson said.

The two organizations opened their previous garden Havemeyer Park on S. Fourth Street between Kent and Wythe avenues in July 2013, in conjunction with event promoter Bobby Redd. The groups hosted nighttime movie screenings, concerts, yoga, art classes, and a mysterious teepee in the park, but eventually had to hand the space back in September 2014 so Two Trees could start building its first skyscraper.

Two Trees officials said they invited the groups to return because they made such good use of the empty space last time.

"North Brooklyn Farms did an incredible job transforming a vacant lot into an urban garden over the last two summers and have become a beloved part of the neighborhood," said Dave Lombino, the developer's director of special projects.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Megan Callahan and Emma Jane Gonzalez spread dirt for the vegetable beds for North Brooklyn Farms' new community garden.

The new park will include a larger farm and a new asphalt bike track constructed by the cycle store, which will provide locals with a place to ride recreationally off the city streets, said a spokes-person for the shop.

"We wanted people to have access to a place to ride outside of traffic, learn to ride and to enjoy riding other than in the daily grind of riding to work every day," said Ride Brooklyn co-owner Pete Kocher.

The bike track at Havemeyer was made of dirt, but Kocher said they decided to go with asphalt this time because the dirt was too taxing to maintain.

"It will give us time to focus on running the park instead of worrying about constant upkeep," he said.

The farm may be getting the land for free, but it will still have to pay for extras including insurance, trash cans, and staffing, said Watson, so it is raising money via a fundraising party on June 28. The park will officially open in July and Kocher said he hopes to complete the bike track by the end of that month.

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Green light

City finally makes way for G'point's Box Street Park

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The city can finally build a long-awaited Greenpoint park now that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has made plans to vacate a lot on the banks of the Newtown Creek that is slated for green space.

The City Council voted on Monday to allow the transit agency to move the old and broken vehicles it is housing on a lot at the end of Box Street to a facility in the Bronx, which will leave the waterfront space free for parkland. Pols promised to build the so-called Box Street Park there a decade ago, and locals say they are excited that the project is finally moving along.

"The fact that the deal actually signed is really fantastic," said Greenpoint resident Katie Naplatarski. "This is something the community has been waiting for for years."

The city first pledged to build the park in 2005, when it rezoned industrial sites on the Williamsburg and Greenpoint waterfront to allow residential development. Officials said they would relocate the 2.81-acre transit authority lot at 65 Commercial St. — which is a little larger than the size of two football fields — and replace it with parkland to make up for the many luxury condominium and apartment towers that were sure to come.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Greenpointers say this industrial lot would look a lot better with a basketball court and dog run.

But the project stalled when the Metropolitan Transportation Authority couldn't find anywhere to move its vehicles, and the city then claimed the funds for the park had dried up. The City Council cut a deal with developer Chetrit Group in late 2013, allowing it to build new luxury towers on neighboring land in exchange for bankrolling the park's construction and the transit facility's emigration.

Councilman Steve Levin said he had serious doubts that the park would ever materialize after the years of inaction, but he is now feeling reassured.

"I'm glad to be able to move this process forward.'" said Levin (D–Williamsburg).

But some residents say it is now difficult to get pumped about the park after so many years of broken promises.

"It is too many years in the works and the fact that it has taken so long to follow through on that commitment is very disturbing," said open-space advocate Adam Perlmutter. "My happiness that the park is finally coming is overshadowed by that."

Residents say they hope the city will allow them more input into Box Street Park than they were given on nearby Transmitter Park and in-the-works Newtown Barge Park. The neighborhood needs a dog park, basketball court, and real grass turf, say locals.

It will still be a while before the city can start building. Levin's office said the transit authority plans to move its cars to the Bronx lot by 2017, after which the city will need to clean the industrial site to make it safe for park-goers.

BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE – ADVERTISEMENT

Bishop Kearney High School Celebrates the Class of 2015

Bishop Kearney High School's 50th Commencement Exercise for the class of 2015 was held on Saturday, June 6 in the Walt Whitman Auditorium of Brooklyn College. Commencement speaker, former New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, addressed the graduates reminding them that the education they received at Kearney was a wonderful preparation for the years ahead. "You are our hope for the future," Mr. Kelly said. "Be ready to address the needs of the times and make a difference wherever you go. Be proud of the fact that you are a member of the Bishop Kearney sisterhood and always support each other in future challenges."

One hundred percent of the Class of 2015 will go on to attend college in the fall. Seventy-one percent earned $15 million in scholarships, including CUNY Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, CUNY Macauley Honors College, Fairfield University, Fordham University, Loyola University, University of Scranton, Marist College, Marquette University and Manhattan College.

Mrs. Elizabeth Guglielmo, Kearney's principal, stated, "We are very proud of the scholastic accomplishments of this class. These young women have worked very hard, focused on their college goals and achieved their personal best."

New theater is smokin'

St. Ann's previews new Tobacco Warehouse space

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

It was an opening night to remember.

Edgy Dumbo performing arts venue St. Ann's Warehouse last Tuesday raised the curtain on its biggest production yet — a massive new waterfront theater.

Culture vultures gathered at the newly refurbished Tobacco Warehouse on the edge of Brooklyn Bridge Park to get a sneak-peek of the space and catch musical performances from stars of stage and screen Alan Cumming and Cristin Milioti, former Police-man Sting, Glen Hansard of Irish band the Frames, and other big names, at the company's annual fund-raising gala.

The theater has spent the last two years transforming the empty shell of the historic building into a performance venue. The $30-million makeover includes a 700-seat playhouse, a smaller 105-seat performance space, and an open-air public garden — all housed within the warehouse's original Civil War-era brick walls. The theater's chief said the company is thrilled with its new digs.

"We love the new space, and think it's a fantastic addition to New York City," said St. Ann's artistic director Susan Feldman.

St. Ann's has operated out of various Brooklyn venues for the past 35 years, but the Tobacco Warehouse is its first permanent, purpose-built home. The company first started in 1980 at the Church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity on Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights. In 2001, it moved to an old spice-milling factory warehouse at the corner of Water and Dock streets in Dumbo, then relocated nearby to the corner of Jay and Plymouth streets in 2012.

Over the years, its various iterations have hosted musical performances by Lou Reed, Nick Cave, and David Bowie, and theater shows from famed avant-garde troupe the Wooster Group and London's Royal Court Theatre.

The company will officially open the new playhouse in November with a production of Shakespeare's "Henry IV" featuring an all-female cast. On the bill for next year is Tennessee Williams's "A Streetcar Named Desire" featuring "The X-Files" star Gillian Anderson, and the New York premiere of acclaimed British actor Mark Rylance's 2013 comedy "Nice Fish."

The recent renovation has been relatively uneventful, but the project has been a lightning rod for controversy in the past. The Tobacco Warehouse was formerly part of a federally-protected park, which the state rezoned in 2010, handing control of the building to the city, which promptly announced St. Ann's as the new tenant. Community groups railed against the lack of transparency in both the rezoning and the selection process, and the project was stalled in court until the suit was finally settled in 2012.

Photos by Stefano Giovannini

(Above) Light pours into St. Ann's newly renovated space. (Left) The Brooklyn Bridge rises above the new theater.

Bullets for ambulette in Vinegar Hill

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

A Crown Heights ambulette driver says he is thankful to be alive after a maniac opened fire near his vehicle in Vinegar Hill on June 19, winging the van with a bullet.

The driver, who was transporting a patient at the time, said it was the most hair-raising thing he'd ever experienced.

"I'm 53 years old and I've never seen something like this in my life," said driver Johnalee Sanders.

Sanders said he had just picked up a dialysis patient at a building on Sand Street at Gold Street shortly before 8:30 am, when he saw two men running towards his ambulette, and one of the guys started firing a gun at the other.

Sanders said he stepped on the gas, but a bullet slammed into the rear driver's side of his van. The slug did not hit Sanders or his passenger, but he said it narrowly missed the ambulette's gas tank.

The man injured in the shooting was taken to hospital suffering from a gunshot wound to the right forearm, a police spokesman said.

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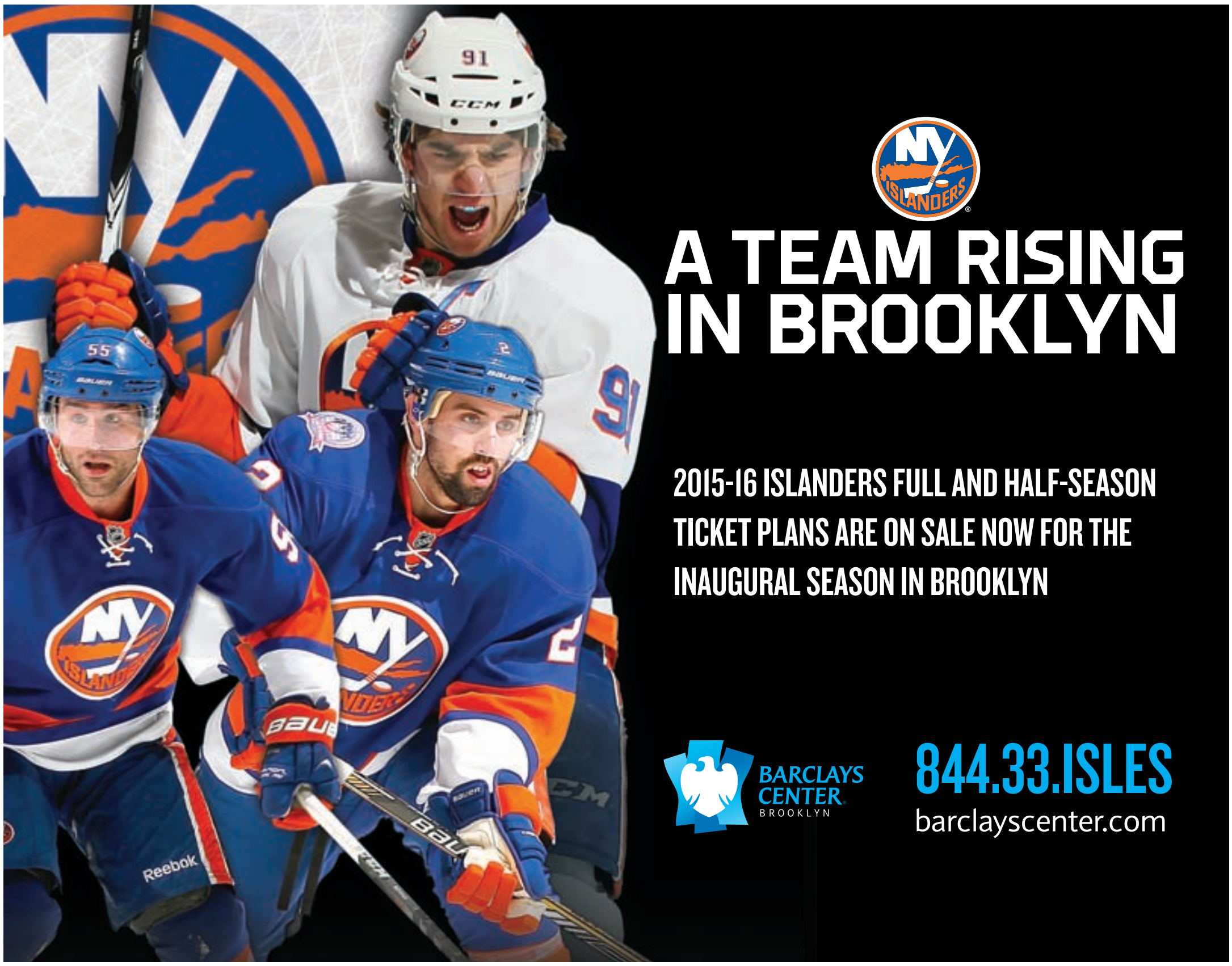

Con rips off couple with harrowing but fake tale

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown

An extortionist ripped off a woman and her boyfriend after tricking them with a fake hostage situation on a train on June 9, cops said.

The scam started around 7:15 am when the malefactor approached the 35-year-old woman on a Manhattan-bound 2 train and told her that her father was being held hostage in the Bronx and that if she did not pay a ransom, his captors would kill him and chop him to pieces, according to a report.

The victim followed the scumbag off the train at the Clark Street stop in Brooklyn Heights, where he doubled down on the scam by getting on the phone with her boyfriend, telling him that he had the victim locked up in a basement and threatening to kill her if he did not pay up, cops said.

The worried boyfriend anted up the numbers for $206 in prepaid gift cards, at which point the fake kidnapper split, leaving the woman safely behind, according to a report.

It later turned out that the woman's father, the original "hostage," was safe with family members the whole time, police said.

Not yours

Some good-for-nothing made off with a pair of Citi Bikes near Brooklyn Bridge Park on June 12, according to police.

The rightful borrowers of the bikes left them locked up at Furman Street and Cadman Plaza West while they strolled in the park at 5 pm, but when they returned about 20 minutes later, a rogue had swiped the blue bikes, valued at $1,200 a pop, cops said.

Don't be a tool

Burglars ripped off a shop on Nevins Street sometime between June 11 and 12, making off with hundreds of dollars in tools, police said.

The owner of the shop between Bergen and Dean streets left his business locked up for the night at 6 pm, but when he returned the next day at 1 pm he found that unidentified intruders had forced the door open, damaging the frame in the process, according to a report.

The reprobates managed to grab a box of assorted tools worth $500, according to police.

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill

Take a seat

A teacher at an Emerson Place charter school allegedly assaulted a student on June 15, according to a report.

The teacher at the school between Lafayette and DeKalb avenues had previously told the student, a 7-year-old boy, to sit down and when the kid refused, the teacher forcibly shoved him back into his seat, bruising the boy, cops said.

Emergency medical services treated the student at the scene and referred the case to the child abuse squad, a report said.

Wrong address

Cops nabbed a suspected burglar after he bungled an attempt to break into a Saint Felix Street apartment on June 20, according to a report.

The resident of the abode between Hanson Place and Lafayette Avenue was headed over to a neighbor's house when he saw a stranger trying to force his way into his own dwelling, cops said. When the man confronted the would-be intruder, the alleged bumbling burglar told the rightful resident "I'm going in," police said.

Not fooled by the excuse, the victim called the police, who cuffed the alleged lummox on the spot, according to a report.

Camper criminal

A highway robber snatched electronics from a parked recreational vehicle on Park Avenue on June 18, according to a report.

The victim left his home-on-wheels near Clinton Street at midnight, and when he returned about half an hour later he found some nogoodnik had smashed a passenger-side window and absconded with a MacBook Pro and an iPad Air, police said.

— Noah Hurowitz

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook

Gun bust

Police arrested a guy who they said kept a sawed-off shotgun and drugs in his Centre Mall apartment, which they found on June 19.

Officers executed a search warrant of the man's apartment between Clinton and Henry Streets in Red Hook at 6:50 am, police said.

In chains

A whippersnapper was arrested for whipping a stranger with a bike chain and — then turning his ire on a Smith Street storefront on June 19, police reported.

The 25-year-old man allegedly attacked a 29-year-old stranger between Baltic and Butler streets at 1:35 am and then started smacking a window to a storefront, police said.

Seats taken

A car thief took a Third Street man's car for a joy ride overnight on June 15 — and stole a row of seats before he dumped the ride.

The vehicle's owner left his Dodge Caravan parked between Smith and Hoyt streets in Carroll Gardens at 7 pm, but when he looked outside the next day at 11 am, the car was gone, police said.

The victim found his ride parked a couple blocks away on Hoyt Street between First and Second streets, but a row of seats and a moving blanket were missing, officials said. There were no signs of a force entry into the car, but the ignition switch was severely damaged, a police report states.

— Max Jaeger

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Fanny pack foul

A greedy goon stole a woman's fanny pack from a park bench in Prospect Park on June 13.

Cops say the woman was lounging on the grass, and left her pack unattended on a bench, only to find it missing when she returned around 3:45 pm.

The victim says her identification, two credit cards, and $40 in cash were inside the bag, but no unauthorized charges were made to the card before they were cancelled.

Subway swiper

A mystery subway thief snatched a sleeping man's bag on a 2 train near the Atlantic Avenue stop on June 10.

The victim, who says he is homeless and rides the train back and forth to help him think, got on the train at 11 pm on June 9 and fell asleep with his tote bag on the seat next to him.

He woke up at 5 am at the station near Pacific Street and saw that his bag was missing. The bag contained the man's debit card, identification, Social Security card, MetroCard and two pairs of shoes, according to a police report.

Chain gang

One or more bandits stole several bikes and equipment from the front porch of a Second Street home by cutting their chains on June 7.

The victim says he returned to his home near Sixth Avenue to find that his two bikes, a Kona Dew and a James Dammuter, had been freed from the chains binding them to the front porch, and the rapscallion had taken the Kryptonite locks and a kid's seat as well.

— Allegra Hobbs

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Ridge stick-up

Two toughs with a gun robbed a teacher at the corner of Ridge Boulevard on June 20.

The educator was near 71st Street in Bay Ridge at 1:30 am when the pair pulled out a black handgun and took the woman's purse, which contained a cash, glasses, a MetroCard, and a teacher's license, a police report states.

The pirates were both about 6 feet and 180 pounds, and they fled in a 2007 Hyundai Accent, officials said.

Tips copped

A brute bashed open the door to a Fourth Avenue restaurant and stole cash from the store's till and tip jar sometime between June 16 and June 17.

The burglar jimmied open a back door to the eatery between 100th and 101st streets sometime between 10:30 am and 11:08 am the next day and stole $600, a police report states.

Mean mugger

A monster clad in black ripped the purse from a 77-year-old woman's shoulder as she waited for a car service on 79th Street on June 20.

The woman was waiting between Shore Road and Narrows Avenue in Bay Ridge at 9:20 am when the snatcher struck, police said.

He escaped on 79th street toward Narrows Avenue with the purse, which contained $300, a camera, and jewelry valued at a total $1,650, officials said. *— Max Jaeger*

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint–Northside

Dirty move

Cops cuffed a woman who they said threw bleach at a man's face, injuring his eyes, on Clay Street in broad daylight on June 17.

The victim told police that he was arguing with a woman near Manhattan Avenue at 11:15 am when she suddenly threw bleach in his eyes.

Emergency personnel took the man to Woodhall Medical Center for treatment. Cops charged the woman with assault.

Drink me

A scheming broad accompanied a man back to his Meeker Avenue hotel room on June 20, insisted he drink a strange substance, and then stole his watch.

The victim told police that he took the lady to his hotel room near McGuinness Boulevard at 5:30 am. The woman insisted that he drink a mystery potion along with his booze and he accepted it, the police report states. He passed out and woke up later to find his watch gone, he told cops.

Back shooter

Someone shot a teen in the back in what appeared to be a random attack on Jackson Street on June 17.

The victim told police that he was near Kingsland Avenue at 5:30 pm when someone suddenly shot him in the back.

Emergency personnel took the victim to Woodhall Hospital. Cops are checking surveillance cameras at the scene for clues.

90TH PRECINCT

Southside–Bushwick

The rub

Cops cuffed a man who they said stole a girl's purse while she was getting a massage on Union Street on June 21.

The victim told police that she was in the massage parlor between S. Third and S. Fourth streets at 5:20 pm when a man suddenly came in and grabbed her purse. She tried to pull it back from him and he punched her in the face and body and ran away, cops reported.

Police charged him with robbery and assault.

— Danille Furfaro

POLICE BLOTTER

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GO BROOKLYN

(718) 260–2500 *The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings* June 26–July 2, 2015

Open by luck

Slope arts mainstay schedules a career retrospective

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

His life is on display.

An artist who has occupied a storefront studio on Park Slope's trendy Fifth Avenue for almost two decades looks back on his life's work with a retrospective exhibit and 50th birthday party on June 27. The painter and mixed-media artist began keeping irregular hours at his storefront, which advertises "studio is open by appointment and by luck," back in 1999. Since then, property values have skyrocketed in the hot 'hood, where retail rents can average $15,000 a month. But he has managed to make a living and pay his rent on time, despite only taking walk-ins in the early evening and late at night — all very much to his own surprise.

"By all rights, I shouldn't still be here," said Jonathan Blum.

Blum never planned to do his painting in a storefront, but some sage advice from a real estate broker changed his mind.

"You know that line from 'The Graduate'? 'Plastics'?" Blum said, referring to the scene where a businessman gives the young protagonist advice on a burgeoning job market.

"Well... 'Storefronts,' " said Blum.

Since then, Blum has become a fixture on Fifth Avenue, painting portraits of people and pets, crafting custom Judaica, mashing up one-of-a-kind monoprints, and teaching locals to do the same, said a local musician.

"He's very involved with the Fifth Ave. [Business Improvement District] and his artwork has been displayed on lampposts along the avenue," said Park Slope native and music-maker Amelia Robinson. "He teaches low-cost art classes. There are a lot of lives that he's touched, and I think that is a true testament to him."

Blum's retrospective will feature art he has made over his three-decade career, which began in his native Washington D.C.

"I'm literally borrowing paintings from all over the country," Blum said. "I was surprised that people were so happy to have their pieces in the show."

Some musicians are helping Blum ring in a half-century, too. Robinson's band Mil's Trills, jazz cats Michael Bates' Northern Spy, and klezmer rockers Sway Machinery will keep crowds dancing.

After 16 years keeping Park Slope colorful, Blum says he has no plans to leave his storefront. And a fellow Slope artist contradicted Blum's claim that he no longer belongs in the gentrified neighborhood.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Happy accidents: (above) Over the last 16 years, serendipity has united countless people with portrait painter Jonathan Blum. Blum often paints subjects from the nose up, like in the monoprint collage "The Hecker/Allen Family Portrait" (below).

Jonathan Blum

"By all rights he should be here," said artist Nashemia Billups. "He gives the neighborhood credibility."

Jonathan Blum Studio Storefront Shop [285 Fifth Ave. between First and Second streets in Park Slope. www.jonathanblumportraits.com, (718) 499–0199].

"50 Years of Jonathan Blum: A Retrospective" at Shapeshifter Lab [18 Whitwell Pl. between Carroll and First streets in Gowanus, www.shapeshifterlab.com, (917) 855–6564]. June 27 at 7 pm. Free.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Slippery slope: The bends of "Modified Social Bench #3" beg to be climbed, but reporter Danielle Furfaro could not find a foothold.

Hands-on experience

Sculptor says 'Please Touch the Art'

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

We took this art at its word.

A series of sculptures titled "Please Touch the Art" recently arrived in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Created by Danish artist Jeppe Hein, the interactive artwork is scattered from Empire Fulton Ferry to Pier 6. The Public Art Fund, who installed the work, encourages people to seek out and interact with the 16 "modified social benches," a water sculpture called "Appearing Rooms," and "Mirror Labyrinth NY," a collection of mirror-polished steel planks.

We sent reporter Danielle Furfaro to touch the art.

I ventured to Brooklyn Bridge Park on a hot, sunny afternoon to check out "Please Touch the Art," a series of sculptures that encourage people to interact with them. The 18 installations are spread throughout the piers of the park and create stunning visual interplays with the lush grass and waves of water around them. But the visuals are only part of the story. Each piece begs to be played with or climbed on.

First stop: the social benches! Each bench feels the same: hard, painted metal that is surprisingly cool to the touch. They are not terribly comfortable for sitting, but they are fun to look at. The bright orange benches bend and swoop erratically and fold into themselves.

I settled first on "Modified Social Bench #6," which is shaped in a figure eight. The arrangement meant that I found myself staring directly at the man sitting on the opposite side of the bench. The bench may have tried to force me to be social, but feeling far too awkward, I got up and looked for the next piece. Further down the park I discovered "Modified Social Bench #3," a six-foot mountain of a bench, with only a tiny space to sit at its summit. I tried to climb, but I could get neither grip nor foothold on it, and kept sliding back onto the ground.

"Appearing Rooms" is the most interactive of the pieces, and certainly the most popular. It is a large square block, on which jets of water pop up suddenly to arrange various rooms with liquid walls. On a weekday afternoon, it was filled with screaming children, so my overall impression of the piece was "wet" and "loud." Standing on the grid, I tried to guess which jets would erupt next, but I was mostly busy dodging tiny children. Later in the summer, I can see overheated Dumbo office workers stopping here to cool off.

The mirror labyrinth, a spiral maze constructed of dozens of double-sided mirror shards, was the most fun for me. Stepping into it was like visiting an alternate universe where distance, size, and shape are perpetually changing. It was a bit dizzying, but also very inspiring. I walked around the interior, but with flashing reflections of the grass, sky, and other visitors, it was impossible to tell what was where, or even where I was. The only mundane portion was the muddy ground below my feet.

"Please Touch the Art" at Brooklyn Bridge Park. www.brooklynbridgepark.org. "Appearing Rooms" on display until Sept. 28, all other art until April 17, 2016.

THEATER

Casting all!

Chris Montgomery

All the world's a stage, and all these men and women are equal players.

An outdoor production of Shakespeare's "Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2" will bow on June 30 with a woman in the major role of Prince Hal, son of Henry IV. One man in his time plays many parts, and the Smith Street Stage theater company cast 13 actors into the play's 65 parts without regard to how they fill a codpiece.

Those behind the play say they were not interested in changing the spirit of the play, just showing audiences that there is no one right way to tell a story.

"Gender wasn't going to factor in to casting no matter what play we did," said Joby Earle, the show's director. "Audiences are really smart. The country as a whole is examining what the idea of gender really means. Gender is quite fluid. It means a lot of different things."

The actor in the role of Prince Hal never imagined she would have the chance to play the part.

"I've worked on Hal's monologues and scenes before, mostly just for fun or to feed my creative self," said Hannah Sloat (pictured). "People do all sorts of things to Shakespeare. This is just another way for audiences to take it in."

One of the play's major themes is the troubled relationship between the king and the prince, but Sloat said that the strength of Shakespeare's writing — and some good advice from Earle — gives her the confidence to deliver her half of the dramatic father-son dynamic.

"These characters are so rich and full that they have the ability to speak for themselves," Sloat said. "Joby reminded me that as actors, we are constantly playing characters different than ourselves. This is just another version of that."

"Henry IV" in Carroll Park [Smith Street between Carroll and President streets in Carroll Gardens, www.smithstreetstage.com]. Part 1 on June 30, July 8, 10, and 16 at 8 pm. Part 2 on July 1, 9, 15, and 17 at 8 pm. Both plays back-to-back on July 2, 11–12, and 18–19 at 6:30 pm. Free. ***— Eric Faynberg***

FESTIVAL

Times are Tuff

Tim Young

Here comes Tuffy!

Park Slope's newest musical star, Tuffy Tiger will release his first album at the Puppetry Arts Festival on June 27. But the felted feline folksinger says he is not nervous — in fact, he's looking forward to meeting people at the show.

"I hope all of my new friends have a really tuffy-tastic time," said Tuffy Tiger (pictured).

Coining a new adjective based on his name? Is the prospect of fame going to Tuffy's little head?

"I don't know much about fame," said Tuffy, "but I certainly love helping people and teaching them."

Tuffy explained to a reporter that he is almost five years old, and that he lives a modest life in a tree house owned by his adoptive mother. His debut CD, "Songs and Music For Me" will explain the lessons he has learned about using inside voices, washing up, and getting along with other kids.

The director of Puppetry Arts had nothing but kinds words for his new act.

"He's curious, clever, and has an enduring nature," said Tim Young.

Tuffy said he hopes to star in his own television show some day, but until then he is rehearsing for music videos and live school appearances.

Tuffy's upbeat philosophy of helping others is in line with the mission of Puppetry Arts, said the group's director.

"It's designed to provide opportunities," said Young, "It's free for the community to experience enriching family acts through the art of puppetry."

The festival also provides resources and a stage for emerging artists, he said. Puppeteers new and old will take the stage for regular performances during the four-hour festival, and visitors can create their own puppets.

However, the festival also gives space to more established figures, including corporate reptile the Geico gecko, beloved robot R2-D2, and evil imperialist Darth Vader and some of his storm troopers.

The young tiger maintains that he is not afraid of the Sith lord or his minions — it seems that this cub has the heart of a lion.

"I would even go to outer space to help wherever I'm needed," Tuffy said.

Puppetry Arts Festival at J.J. Byrne Park (334 Fifth Ave. between Fifth and Sixth streets). June 27 from 11 am–3 pm. Free. ***— Joseph Altobelli***

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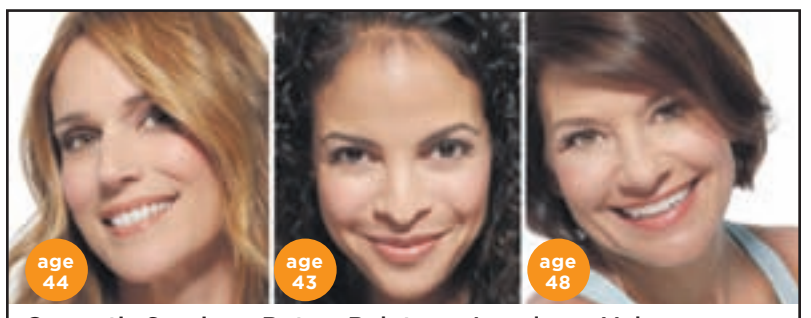

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
June 26

BAM, that is a nice booty

Celebrate Pride, see a show, and shake your groove thing at the Everybooty party, which crams a borough's worth of everything queer and artsy into three floors of dance troupes, drag queens, DJs, and devilish art.

8 pm at BAM Fisher [321 Ashland Pl. between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636–4100, www.bam.org]. $25 ($20 in advance).

SATURDAY
June 27

Hidden Marvels

Everyone loves "Avengers" and "Guardians of the Galaxy," but Marvel movies were once a lot more, well, quirky. This talk and video clip show from Den of Geek explores little-remembered "Marvel Oddities," like the 1960s Captain America cartoon (pictured), or the totally '80s version of "Daredevil."

9 pm at Videology (308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg, www.videology.info). Free.

SUNDAY
June 28

Keep on truckin'

Impress your Prospect Park picnic buddies by bringing the borough's best food to your blanket spot. With a quick stop at the Food Truck Rally at Grand Army Plaza, you can pick up meat pies from Dub Pies, lobster rolls from Red Hook Lobster Pound, and just what you'd expect from the Kimchi Taco Truck, among many others options.

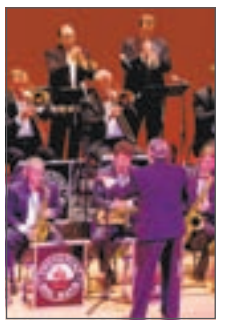
11 am–5 pm at Grand Army Plaza (Union Street between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West in Park Slope). Free.

WEDNESDAY
July 1

Swing shift

The modern world is complicated place. But tonight you can chuck off your Internet addiction and shimmy back to the 1930s with the Swingtime Big Band, a 20-piece orchestra playing music that all the hepcats can shake a leg to. Dance lessons start at 6:30 pm.

7 pm at Central Library's Plaza [10 Grand Army Plaza at Flatbush Avenue and Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights. Free.



THURSDAY
July 2

Diamond anniversary

The floating head of Michael Landon has been keeping watch over the back room of beloved beer bar The Diamond for eight years today. Owner Dave Pollack (pictured enjoying his own goods) celebrates by tracking down eight of his favorite brews from the last eight years and pouring them for just $4 each.

5–8 pm at the Diamond [43 Franklin St. between Calyer and Quay streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383–5030, www.thediamondbrooklyn.com]. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JUNE 26

ART, "BROOKLYN SEWERS: What's Up Down There?": Brooklyn Historical Society's exhibition tells the story of the creation of the Brooklyn sewer system through a historical look at four corners of Kings County: Flatlands, Bushwick, Coney Island, and Fort Greene. $10, museum admission. Noon–5 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

THEATER, "DEMERARA GOLD": In this staged reading of her new play "Demerara Gold," playwright Ingrid Griffith portrays 18 characters while reliving her immigration from Guyana to the United States. $15. 7 pm. South Oxford Space [138 S. Oxford St., between Hanson Place and Atlantic Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 346–6591], www.niaproduction.org.

MUSIC, MISSION OF BURMA: $25. 8 pm. Rough Trade NYC [64 N. Ninth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388–4111], www.roughtradenyc.com.

MUSIC, F----- UP, DOOMSDAY: $15. 8 pm. The Wick [260 Meserole St. at Bushwick Place in Bushwick, (347) 799–1049], www.thewicknyc.com.

DANCE, "WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE": This eco-friendly dance project by Vangeline Theater raises awareness about global warming and coffee trash. $16. 8 pm. Triskelion Arts [106 Calyer St., between Clifford Place and Banker Street in Greenpoint, info@triskelionarts.org], www.vangeline.com.

THEATER, THE INNER CIRCLE LIVE AT F---FEST!: A sexually blunt new opera about the charismatic visionary Dr. Alfred Kinsey. The event kicks off with burlesque emcee Nasty Canasta reading sexual survey responses. $18. 9pm. The Brick [575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907–6189], www.bricktheater.com.

SAT, JUNE 27

THEATER, "A USO CANTEEN": This musical show from the Brooklyn Theater Wing for Seniors benefits the Wounded Warrior Project. $10 ($5 for children). 3 pm. Soul Cafe at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (7420 Fourth Ave. at Bay Ridge Parkway in Bay Ridge).

THEATER, MAGMANUS: Swedish circus company Magmanus Company combines circus skills, humor, and audience interaction. **Free**. 4 pm and 7 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park (334 Furman St. at Middagh Street in Dumbo), www.cityparksfoundation.org.

I FISH NY: Come explore the creatures of the sea with a fishing clinic and meet the oysters who live in our park and clean our waters. **Free**. 2–4 pm. East River State Park [90 Kent Ave. at N. Eighth Avenue in Williamsburg, (917) 727–9761], humanimpactsinstitute.org.

COMEDY, DANIEL TOSH: "Tosh.0" comedian Daniel Tosh comes to Kings Theatre on his Great Nor'easter Tour of 2015. $60. 6 pm and 9 pm. Kings Theatre (1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush), www.kingstheatre.com.

SUN, JUNE 28

THEATER, PLATEA THEATER PROJECT: Presented by BAM and Stoops Bed-Stuy, a short theater performance by the Platea Theater Project that will recur throughout the day. **Free**. Noon–5 pm. Garden of Hope (392 Hancock St. between Marcus Garvey Boulevard and Throop Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant), www.bam.org.

MUSIC, MANNEQUIN PUSSY, KAL MARKS, IAN, DEAD TENANTS: $7. 8 pm. Palisades [906 Broadway at Stockton Street in Bushwick, (201) 214–7444], www.palisadesbk.com.

MUSIC, LITTLE BLACK EGG BIG BAND: Yo La Tengo & Friends: $22-$30. 8 pm. Pioneer Works [159 Pioneer St. between Imlay and Conover

See **9 DAYS** on page 8

Associate Press / Diane Bondareff

Enter the Dragons: Rock band Imagine Dragons swoops into Barclays Center for a red-hot concert on June 30.

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

SAT, JUNE 27
MUSIC, CONTEMPORARY COLOR: Featuring David Byrne, Nelly Furtado, How to Dress Well, Dev Hynes, Kelis, Nico Muhly and Ira Glass, St. Vincent, Tune-Yards, Lucius, and Money Mark and Ad-Rock. $30–$85. 7:30 pm.

SUN, JUNE 28
MUSIC, CONTEMPORARY COLOR: See Saturday, June 27. $25–$85. 7:30 pm.

MON, JUNE 29
MUSIC, BETTE MIDLER: $47.50–$312.50. 7:30 pm.

TUE, JUNE 30
MUSIC, IMAGINE DRAGONS, METRIC: $29.50–$69.50. 7:30 pm.

THURS, JULY 9
COMEDY, KEVIN HART: $49.50–$200. 7 pm.

FRI, JULY 10
MUSIC, ROMEO SANTOS: $34.50–$184.50. 8 pm.

SAT, JULY 11
MUSIC, ROMEO SANTOS: $34.50–$184.50. 8 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618–6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

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NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION NYPA

Photos by Michael July

Famous 'fro: Most of Michael July's natural hair models were ordinary people, but he also photographed celebrities like comedian Reggie Watts (left). July found and shot many of his models in his native Clinton Hill neighborhood, as shown in the photo on the right.

Afro-centric show

Exhibit celebrates the beauty of natural hair

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

This show has locks to love.

A Bedford-Stuyvesant art gallery triumphs the beauty of afros and other natural African-American hairstyles in its new show. The artist behind "Afros: A Celebration of Natural Hair" said he wants his work to help people of color accept their natural locks and shun dominant cultural expectations.

"It's about a rejection of imposed beauty standards and just feeling free," said Michael July, a native Brooklyn photographer who grew up in Clinton Hill. "We were all born with natural hair, so embrace it."

"Afros," an exhibit of photographs from July's 2013 book of the same name, opened at House of Art Gallery on June 20, and the show will remain through Aug. 1.

July started the project in 2006, snapping shots of people with afros, dreadlocks, and other natural 'dos whenever he came across them. At the time, he said, the hair style was less common than it is now, and he had to be ready whenever he spotted a person with striking natural hair.

"When I started it wasn't as prevalent," he said. "I would see someone on the bus with a really nice afro and I'd jump off three or four stops before mine in order to talk to them and photograph them."

July travelled around the country taking photos of both ordinary people and famous afro-wearers like Cornel West, comedian Reggie Watts, and singer Cody Chestnutt. But his own borough was an especially rich area for finding photography subjects, he said.

"One thing you find in Brooklyn that sort of never went away, even when afros were less common, is natural hair stylists. In other places people are hard pressed to find that, but in Brooklyn there's one within a half mile of each other," said July. "I think Brooklyn has always been a very creative community, and people appreciate their roots and their history. I think people inspired by art tend to carry themselves in a more afrocentric way."

The gallery director, also a native Brooklynite, said he hopes the celebration of natural hair can help inspire a new generation to define beauty outside conventional norms.

"I can have the conversation with my daughter, but when she sees a coffee table book with 450 pages of men and women with natural hair, that is a whole 'nother thing," said Richard Beavers, who founded House of Art to promote artwork by and for the residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant. "A book like this is something that promotes and encourages it."

"Afros: A Celebration of Natural Hair," at House of Art Gallery [408 Marcus Garvey Blvd. between Halsey and Macon streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (347) 663–8195, www.hoagallery.com.] Open Tue-Sun, 1–7 pm through Aug. 1.

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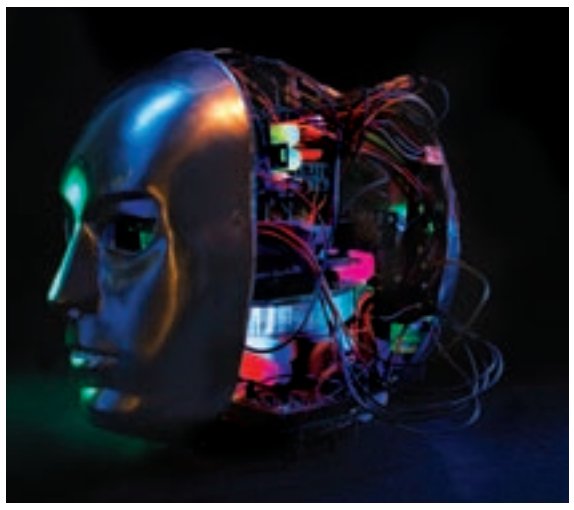

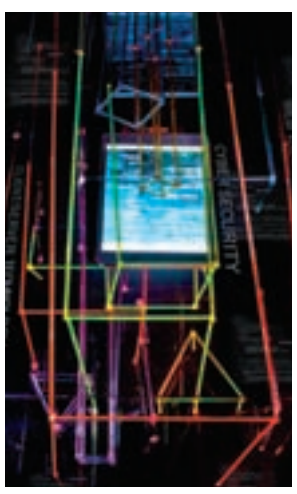

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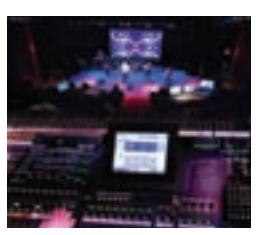

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

streets in Red Hook, (718) 596–3001], pioneerworks.org.

"MUSIC FOR THE BARBED STRINGS": This multi-media project celebrates the music of Jewish composers who lived and died under Stalinism and Nazism. Featuring live musical performances and cinematographic and theatrical elements. **Free**. 3 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights. (718) 230–2100].

JAZZ VESPERS FEATURING MARI TOUSSAINT: Haitian-American vocalist Mari Toussaint performs in this celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month. **Free**. 3 pm. Emmanuel Baptist Church [279 Lafayette Ave. at Saint James Place in Clinton Hill, (347) 460–8179], ebcconnects.com/jazzvespers.

"THE WIZ": End of year dance concert, presented by AbunDance Academy. $30 (day of event). 6 pm. Prospect Heights HS [883 Classon Ave. in Prospect Heights, (347) 788–1069], www.abundancearts.org.

MON, JUNE 29

FOOD, FLATBUSH FOOD COURT: Tex-Mex food every Monday in Sycamore's backyard. 6–10:30 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240–5850], www.sycamorebrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, "MASTER MIX: Red Hot + Arthur Russell": Red Hot and Red Bull Music Academy join forces pay an all-star tribute to the experimental spirit of Arthur Russell. $35. 8 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org.

COMEDY, THE MEHRAN SHOW: Iranian comedian Mehran Khaghani hosts a weekly comedy show, with celebrity and comedian guests joining him on stage. $10 ($8 in advance). 9 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

TUES, JUNE 30

TALK, WOMEN AND JEWISH LAW: Learn how Jewish law regarding women has evolved over time. 7:30 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center [8025 Fourth Ave. between 80th and 81st streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 836–3103], www.brjc.org.

MUSIC, FIASCO, PALM, SWEET BABY JESUS, LITTLE LEAGUER: $7. 8 pm. Palisades [906 Broadway at Stockton Street in Bushwick, (201) 214–7444], www.palisadesbk.com.

WED, JULY 1

NATURE TOTS: Budding scientists 5 years and younger learn about living and non-living things. Free with museum admission. 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735–4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

SENIOR BRAIN & BODY EXERCISES: Free workshop for seniors, focusing on both mental and physical exercises. **Free**. 2 pm. Park Slope Senior Center [463A Seventh St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 832–3726].

FILM, RIC BURNS DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: Weekly screening of a film by American filmmaker and writer Ric Burns. **Free**. 7:30 pm. The Diamond [43 Franklin St. between Calyer and Quay streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383–5030].

BOTTOMS, A BUNCH OF DEAD PEOPLE, LOVE SPREAD: $12. 8 pm. Baby's All Right [146 Broadway between Bedford and Driggs avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 599–5800], www.babysallright.com.

THURS, JULY 2

MUSIC, KING SUNNY ADE: Part of the 21st annual BAM R&B Music festival, which features a roster of both well-known and emerging musicians of R&B and world music. **Free**. Noon. MetroTech Commons [1 MetroTech Roadway at Lawrence Street in Downtown, (718) 875–1780].

THEATER, "SWEENEY TODD: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street": Piper Theatre Workshop celebrates its 10th season at Park Slope's Washington Park with a performance of the dark English musical "Sweeney Todd." **Free**. 8 pm. The Old Stone House [336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768–3195], theoldstonehouse.org.

FRI, JULY 3

ART, "BROOKLYN SEWERS: What's Up Down There?": Noon–5 pm. See Friday, June 26.

THEATER, "SWEENEY TODD: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street": 8 pm. See Thursday, July 2.

SAT, JULY 4

EVENT, NATHAN'S HOT DOG-EATING CONTEST: The 2015 Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog-Eating Contest, the greatest event in the history of mankind, will feature a men's and women's competitions and pre-show festivities. **Free**. 11 am. Nathan's Famous [1310 Surf Ave. at Stillwell Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 333–2202], www.nathansfamous.com.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: Come and make yourself a plumed hat to wear while signing your own signature to a reproduction of the Declaration. $3. 2 pm to 5 pm. Lefferts Historic Homestead [452 Flatbush Ave. between Empire Boulevard and Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 789–2822], www.prospectpark.org.

Silent riffing

Band scores silent 'Snow White'

By Allegra Hobbs
The Brooklyn Paper

They make the sound of silents.

A collective of Brooklyn musicians will add a live, heavy metal-influenced soundtrack to a silent film version of "Snow White" at a pair of performances this weekend at Nitehawk Cinema. The screening is part of the theater's Live Sound Cinema series, which invites bands to re-score visually stunning films, from vintage silent favorites like "Metropolis" to contemporary cult classics like "Mad Max."

This weekend's selection is "Blancanieves," a silent, black-and-white re-imagining of Snow White set in 1920 Seville, with the heroine as a bullfighter. The film's shadowy tone is a perfect match for the music of Black Lodge, said the group's organizer.

"It's a really dark but beautiful film," said Geoff Gersh, the composer and guitarist at the helm of the collective. "I think it's a great twist on the Snow White story. Just visually, it was beautiful."

Gersh's first love is heavy metal, but his influences are wide-ranging, drawing inspiration from jazz and blues legends along with metal heavyweights like Mogwai and Godspeed You! Black Emperor. The upcoming screenings of "Blancanieves" will feature a more mellow, ambient score, he said.

The artistic challenge of giving the film a new life is one that Gersh couldn't resist, even though he says that the Spanish feature was near flawless in its silent state.

"When I do this stuff, it's not that I think I can do a better job," said Gersh. "It's almost like doing a cover song. I have a different take on it, and it's amazing to have that outlet at Nitehawk to take these movies and try something different with them."

The program director at Nitehawk says the goal of the series is to pioneer new artistic experiences for moviegoers.

"This is not a novelty thing — it's really about elevating the film," said John Goods. "It's about taking something people might know, or not know, and making a different experience out of it."

This is not Gersh's first time creating music to complement evocative images — he has scored original films and collaborated with dancers and painters. Throwing his riffs into the mix with the Nitehawk series was an obvious step, he said.

"I love creating music for anything visual — be it dance, film, or other images," he said. "Rescoring films just seems like a natural fit for me."

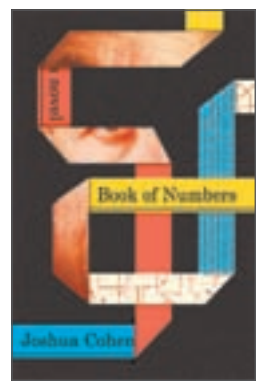
Photo by Stefano Giovannini

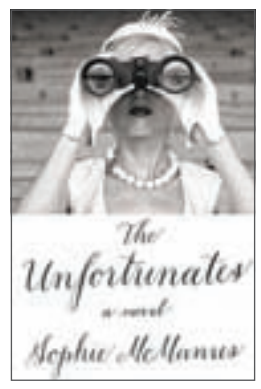
Black metal: Composer Geoff Gersh (left) and his music collective Black Lodge will craft a live soundtrack for silent film "Blancanieves" this weekend at Nitehawk Cinema, as part of a film series organized by the theater's program director John Woods (right).

"Blancanieves" with Black Lodge at Nitehawk Cinema [136 Metropolitan Avenue between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, www.nitehawkcinema.com, 718-384-3980]. June 27–28 at 11:45 am. $16.

Weekend's best reads

Local booksellers give their recommendations





Community's pick

"Book of Numbers" by Joshua Cohen: Verily, the era of the Great Internet Novel is upon us! Not just e-books, or web fiction, but sprawling stories investigating how we mediate our online and off-line lives. Ribald, toothy, and lyrical, Joshua Cohen's "Book of Numbers" stands as the strongest yet in the style. Through a labyrinth of doppelgangers, government surveillance, and writerly woe, Cohen's book investigates the ways technology is changing how we think, how we write, and how we live. And for my bitcoins, Cohen is writing some of the most plugged-in and punchy sentences around.

— Hal Hlavinka, Community Bookstore [43 Seventh Ave. between Carroll Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 783–3075, www.communitybookstore.net].

Greenlights pick

"The Unfortunates" by Sophie McManus: Do you need to like your family in order to love them? That is what the characters in this book are trying to figure out. This is a story about a dysfunctional elite family and their entitled son, who is attempting to stage a horrendous opera that nobody likes and the family is embarrassed by. Meanwhile, the family matriarch is facing her own mortality, and her illness puts her son's life into a tailspin, causing him to lose the little control he had over himself. The family begins to unravel in very public and unsettling ways, which of course makes for a rich reading experience!

— Rebecca Fitting, Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246–0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com].

Word's pick

"The Sculptor" by Scott McCloud: Despite pouring all his time and talent into his art, David Smith just cannot find a break and is well into a downward spiral. When all seems lost, David shares a meal with a familiar face who offers him the deal of a lifetime: the amazing ability to sculpt any material into any shape he imagines — but if he accepts the gift, he only has two hundred days to live. McCloud takes this seemingly simple premise and knocks it clear out of the park. A perfect example of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts.

— Jasper Abano, Word [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383–0096, www.wordbrooklyn.com].

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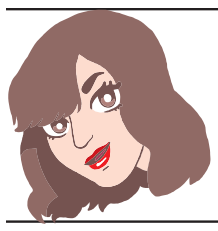
Looking back on the Apple Watch



Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

As you fantasize about getting yourself the very coolest, hippest, newest gadget on the block — an Apple Watch, that is — pause for a moment to consider the perspective of the stunned and shaken Bradley Johnson.

Johnson is a director at Advertising Age magazine, the bible of the marketing business (and a place I worked eons ago), who recently set himself a kind of crazy task. He would look through 85 years of issues to search for "The beginning of everything" — everything being technology that changed the way we communicate.

The idea was to create a special issue of the magazine, which he did. It was so fascinating, I called him up to hear more. What did the technologies look like as they emerged? Who saw the promise? Who changed with the times? And what can Apple learn from Zenith?

Oh please, dear reader. You've never heard of Zenith? That's like never having heard of MySpace!

MySpace. It was like Facebook, except — well, never mind.

Zenith began as a radio company in the 1920s. It introduced the first portable radio in 1924. In the '50s, it started making televisions, and in the '60s, it made color television. To own a Zenith was to own the classiest gadget around. It gave you bragging rights.

Meantime, RCA — as in Radio Corporation of America — was right there, too.

"Both those brands made the jump from radio to television," says Johnson. He spent days reading old articles about their incredible foresight and brilliant marketing. "Yet fast-forward and Zenith is technically now owned by LG. And RCA is —" he paused. "I don't know if it's even a factor in the consumer electronics market. The kings today are Samsung, LG, and to a lesser extent, Sony."

Somewhere along the way, the early giants lost their mojo.

And how about IBM? Sure, it is still a huge company and I loved watching Watson kill on "Jeopardy!" but it isn't the juggernaut it was in '60s. As Johnson looked over the old ads from that era, "The most beautiful tech advertising that I came across was for the IBM electric typewriter. The hot product at the time was the Selectric — the typewriter with the ball element in it, the pinnacle of typewriters. If you're an executive and you have that sitting on your secretary's desk in the '60s, that's a sign of success," says Johnson.

The machines were so sleek and iconic, IBM's print ads for them were simple: Show the object, light it well, and wait for the orders to flood in. In fact, they reminded Johnson of ads for Apple.

Unstoppable, unbeatable Apple.

These days you can still sometimes find a Selectric at a garage sale.

Hmm.

If the companies were caught flat-footed over and over, was there anyone who truly understood where technology was taking us?

Turns out there was: An ad exec named E.B. Weiss, who wrote a column in Ad Age in the '50s and '60s.

"I was not familiar with Weiss," says Johnson. But reading those old issues of the magazine, "I was stunned by his prescience."

In his 1960s column, Weiss actually wrote that someday, "It will be possible to communicate with anyone, anywhere, at any time, by voice, sight or written message — instantaneously. All information will be instantly recorded — instantly retrievable."

Johnson's jaw dropped as he read more Weiss: "Ultimately, individuals equipped with miniature television transmitter-receivers will communicate directly with one another worldwide, using personal channels similar to today's personal telephone — and just as simply."

Weiss also told the Mad Men of the hippie era that television, books, and magazines will be "converted into identical bits of energy for transmission over any distance," and a "home console" will allow people to perform "functions that previously could be performed only in the business office."

Weiss was in his 60s in the '60s, and saw almost exactly where we were going.

Zenith, RCA — and let's not forget Kodak — did not.

Oh, they had a good run. The kind Apple — and Facebook, and Uber, etc., etc. — are enjoying now. But someday, maybe around 2115, some curious historian may paw through dusty posts from the days when folks read blogs (how quaint!) and have to Google (or whatever they'll be doing by then) to find out: "What's Apple?"

So don't feel too bad if you can't afford one of those watches.

Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker and founder and writer of the book and blog Free-Range Kids.

TENANTS...

Continued from page 1

six other buildings throughout the city, and the task force is still investigating conditions in his other properties, Schneiderman said.

Mayor DeBlasio said he is glad to see that the task force is getting results, and that he hopes every landlord in the city takes notice.

"There have been too many abusive landlords in this city and too many times they have gotten away with abusive actions towards tenants," said the mayor last Wednesday. "The message today is 'game over.' "

This is the second time this year that alleged Brooklyn slumlords have been hit with criminal charges for making their buildings unlivable. Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson filed a criminal indictment in April against landlords Joel and Amron Israel, who are accused of smashing holes in floors and walls of their buildings, and destroying boilers, thermostats, and electrical systems to try to force their rent-stabilized tenants to leave. They each face up to 15 years in prison.

Last week's arrest also comes as lawmakers bicker over the nuances of the state's currently-expired rent stabilization rules, including caveats that allow landlords to raise the rent each time a tenant moves out, and add costs of repairs into the rent.

Melamed and Soltanizadeh's attorneys did not returned calls and e-mails for comment.

Brooklyn Paper *Classifieds*

PHONE: 718.260.2588
bpclassified@cnglocal.com
DEADLINE: WED. 12 PM

Legal Notices

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY SUMMONS AND NOTICE **Index No. 3099-2014** Borough: Brooklyn Block: 1918 Lot: 1007 NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs, vs. TOMASZ RYGALIK, if living, or if he be dead, his wife, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors, creditors, successors-in-interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through TOMASZ RYGALIK, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and all creditors thereof, and the respective wives, or widows of his, if any, all of whose names and addresses are unknown to plaintiffs; BOARD OF MANAGERS OF 305 WASHINGTON AVENUE CONDOMINIUM; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD and "JOHN DOE #1" THROUGH "JOHN DOE #100", the names of the last 100 defendants being fictitious, the true names of said defendants being unknown to plaintiff, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the liened premises and/or persons or parties having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the liened premises, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and the assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint herein, Defendants. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: **YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the complaint in the above-entitled foreclosure action, and to serve a copy of your answer on Plaintiffs attorney within thirty (30) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal service within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. Kings County is designated as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the location of the subject premises. Dated: August 7, 2014 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an Order of Honorable Loren Baily-Schiffman, a Justice of the Supreme Court, dated May 13, 2015, and filed with supporting papers in the Kings County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose a tax lien covering the property known as 305 Washington Avenue, Unit 3B, Borough of Brooklyn, New York and identified as Block 1918, Lot 1007 (the "Tax Parcel"). The relief sought is the sale of the Tax Parcel at public auction in satisfaction of the tax lien. In case of your failure to appear, judgment may be taken against you in the sum of $8,101.71, together with interest, costs, disbursements and attorneys' fees of this action, and directing the public sale of the Tax Parcel. Anthony J. Iacchetta, Esq. Phillips Lytle LLP Attorney for Plaintiff Office and Post Office Address 1400 First Federal Plaza Rochester, New York 14614 Tel. No. (585) 238-2000.

Notice is hereby given regarding Cemetery lots abandoned under Section 1513-a of the Not for Profit Corporation Law at Cypress Hills Cemetery, 833 Jamaica Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11208, 718-277-2900. Section 6 Lot 50: John R. Winthrop Lot 34: George Mitchell Lot 100: Franklin H. Horton Lot 103: John Murphy Lot 144: Enoch Douglas Lot 195: Margaret Mathews Lot 173: Eliza Neville Lot 310: A.B. Haight Lot 379: Sheldon Bailey Lot 180: George Bogert Lot 311: George Roth Lot 184: Abrams and Posner Lot 7: Gilbert Doremus

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: **VLADIMAX, LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/13/2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 21 BAY 31 ST #2 BROOKLYN, NY 11214. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE GUILFORD COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DIVISION 15 CvD 3391. **BRANDI CONTESSA BULLARD**, Plaintiff, vs. NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION ALI PHILLIPS, Defendant. To: ALI PHILLIPS, **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is an action by the Plaintiff for absolute divorce from the Defendant. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than JULY 24, 2015, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This the 3rd day of June, 2015. HATFIELD & HATFIELD. By:___Cynthia A. Hatfield 2I9 W. Washington Street Greensboro, NC 27401. (336) 273-0589. Attorney for Plaintiff. Publication Dates: June 12, 2015, June 19, 2015 and June 26, 2015.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 06/22/2015, bearing Index Number **NC-00063-15/KI**, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) **Sophia** (Middle) **Helen** (Last) **Lehman**. My present name is (First) Sophia (Middle) Helen (Last) Rasenas AKA Sophia Rasenas Lehman AKA Sophia Helen Lehman . My present address is 192 Russell Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222. My place of birth is Boston, MA. My date of birth is October 11, 1982.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 06/22/2015 bearing Index Number NC-000662-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Daniel (Last) Lin. My present name is (First) Daniel (Last) Lin Ren AKA Daniel Ren (infant). My present address is 725 48th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is September 26 2006.

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176 Java St Suite 10, Brooklyn NY 11222

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY. NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO NYCTL 2009-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Pltf. vs. 186 SCHAEFER STREET, LLC, et al, Defts. **Index #7011/10**. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered Mar. 25, 2015 and consent to change attorney filed 5/1/2015, I will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on July 30, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. prem. k/a 186 Schaefer Street, Brooklyn, NY a/k/a Block 03429, Lot 0024. Approx. amt. of judgment is $17,052.96 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale and the right of the United States of America to redeem within 120 days from the date of sale as provided by law. JEFFREY A. ST. CLAIR, Referee. LAW OFFICE OF JOHN D. DELLO-IACONO, Attys. for Pltf., 105 Maxess Rd., Suite 124, Melville, NY. File No. 10-000831 - #86251

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY CENLAR, FSB; Plaintiff(s) vs. MENACHEM WEISZ; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about May 6, 2015, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. On July 9, 2015 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 186 HOWARD AVE, BROOKLYN, NY 11233. Block: 1508 Lot: 46. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment $282,006.01 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 23682/10. Annalise Cottone, Esq., REFEREE

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE INDEX NO.: 503752/2013 FILE DATE: 06/01/15 MORTGAGED PREMISES: 1498 President St., Brooklyn, NY 11213 BL #: 1406- 16 Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial; venue is based upon the county in which the mortgaged premises is situate. STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff - against- Dana Piekarski, if they be living, and if dead, the respective heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignors, lienors, creditors and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, in any, and each and every person not specifically named who may be entitled to or claim to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the verified complaint; all of whom and whose names and places of residence unknown, and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained by the Plaintiff, ET AL. Defendants. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the attorneys for the Plaintiff within 20 days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. **NOTICE** YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME. SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. SENDING PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure $316,000.00 and interest, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Kings on March 16, 2004, at C.R.F.N. 2004000158619, covering premises at 1498 PRESIDENT ST., BROOKLYN, NY 11213 – BLOCK 1406; LOT 16. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. The Plaintiff also seeks a deficiency judgment against the Defendant and for any debt secured by said Mortgage which is not satisfied by the proceeds of the sale of said premises. TO the Defendant(s) DANA PIEKARSKI, the foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Dawn Jimenez-Salta of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, dated May 7, 2015. Dated: New Rochelle, NY. June 1, 2015.MCCABE, WEISBERG & CONWAY, P.C. Signed Pursuant to 22 NYCRR Section 130-1.1-a /s/_____Sonia J. Baez, Esq. Attorneys for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot St., Ste. 210 New Rochelle, NY 10801. p. 914-636-8900 f. 914-636-8901. HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE NEW YORK STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE SEND YOU THIS NOTICE ABOUT THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. **SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT** YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME. PLEASE READ THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department of Financial Services at 1-800-342-3736 or visit the Department's website at www.dfs.ny.gov. FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS. Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS INDEX NO. 502133/2014 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial situs of the real property NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff, vs. HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES TO THE ESTATE OF HENRY GEIGER; if living, and if they be dead, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; TAI RON GEIGER AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF HENRY GEIGER; HENRY GEIGER, JR., AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF HENRY GEIGER; SHANIQUE GEIGER AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF HENRY GEIGER; MONIQUE GEIGER AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF HENRY GEIGER; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE IN TRUST FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CERTIFICATEHOLDER FOR ABFC 2005-AQI TRUST, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-AQ1, NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint, Defendants. MORTGAGED PREMISES: 418 Vermont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207 Block: 3773 Lot: 134 To the above-named Defendants: **YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within 20 days after service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until (60) days after service of the Summons; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclosure a Mortgage to secure $487,500.00 and interest, in the Office of the City Register of the City of New York in the County of KINGS on September 29, 2009 in CRFN 2009000314391, covering premises known as 418 Vermont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. Kings County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Dated: February 3, 2015 RAS Boriskin, LLC, Attorney for Plaintiff By: Thomas Zegarelli, Esq. 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite LL-13, Westbury, NY 11590 (516) 280-7675 14-38563.

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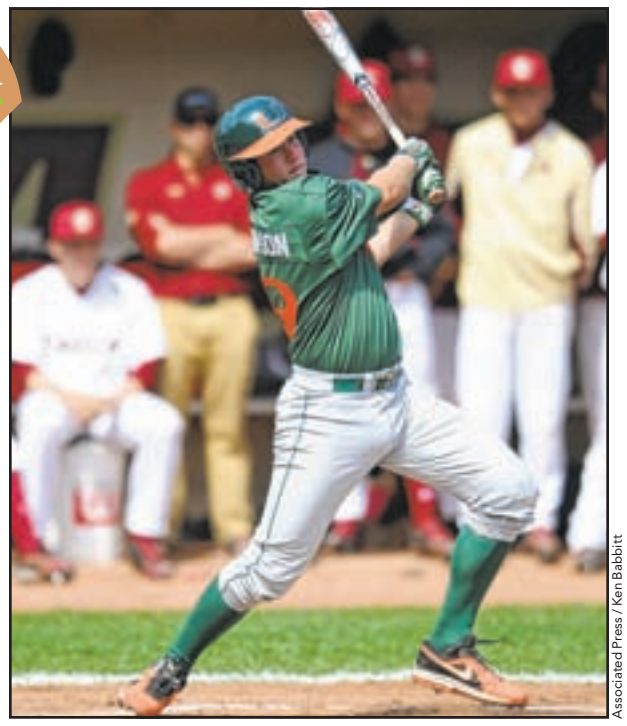
Office of the Public Advocate

EXCLUSIVE CYCLONES COVERAGE

Clones could get big bat

Diamond Dave's
Cyclones Report
By David Russell


Associated Press / Ken Babbitt

Former Miami Hurricane — and latest Cyclone — David Thompson takes a swing in his college days.

Might as well jump in!

Brooklyn fans are eager to see Mets fourth-round pick David Thompson, who led the nation in home runs and runs batted with the Miami Hurricanes, at the hot corner for the Cyclones.

Readers of this column know that scouts base their projections on potential as opposed to results, but why was such a prodigious slugger still available in the fourth round?

Well, it could be because of his two surgeries — one on his throwing arm and the other to remove a rib — but manager Tom Gamboa says he'll be able to figure it out after he watches the kid between the lines for a couple weeks.

"I had to go see Darryl Strawberry play two games before I saw him make contact with a ball," said Gamboa, who was a scout for 10 years and a National Crosschecker who would watch the top 200 prospects in the country. "He kept striking out. But he had a fantastic body, a fantastic bat. You saw a guy that could run like a deer."

Gamboa added that he once wasn't impressed by a pitcher who threw a perfect game.

"The best pitching performance I ever saw, I didn't put the guy on my draft list."

The pitcher struck out 19 of 21 batters faced, but Gamboa saw a player who was physically mature at 18 years old and not going to get any bigger.

"I couldn't project it getting better because it was like I was looking at the finished product."

This isn't to say that Thompson wasn't a good selection by the Mets, and Cyclones fans will get to find out first hand once he gets here.

Cross-Narrows rival

The Cyclones and the hated Staten Island Yankees took turns spoiling each other's home openers, with the Cyclones winning on Friday night in Staten Island, and the Evil Empire of the New York Penn-League winning at Coney Island on Saturday.

Brooklyn starter Gaby Almonte lost the home opener, giving up eight runs (six earned) but impressed the coaching staff. After a 12-inning game the night before, Almonte gave up six runs in the third, but shutout the Yankees in the fourth and fifth to save the bullpen a bit of extra work.

The pitchers are on a 90-pitch limit, although they are allowed to finish an at-bat that started under the 90 mark.

Your bad, not mine

Credit Gamboa and pitching coach Dave LaRoche (whom readers of this column will remember for famously striking out Gorman Thomas with his LaLob) with giving their catchers and pitchers a lot of leeway, allowing them to call pitches, as opposed to calling pitches from the dugout. LaRoche, a former All-Star with the Cleveland Indians, joked that he already had his Major League career, so if a Cyclone pitcher gets hit hard, it will be with pitches that the catcher himself is calling.

Ghosts of Father's Day

The Dad
By Scott Sager

On Father's Day I thought of my dad, who died many years before my children were born. I wish he had known my daughters and I think they would have liked him.

In the intervening years, though, I have found other men, older and wiser than me, to fill the gap my dad left, which made me wonder if we can have more than one father in our lives?

I'm not talking about biology — you only get one person's Y-chromosome and you are stuck with it and the father we each have is not always your genetic donor. I'm also not thinking about the many people who offer guidance through life — teachers, mentors, and role models, many who are men, but neither take the place of a dad nor fill that role exactly.

What would I turn to my father for, if he were around? It is hard to put a finger on. My dad wasn't the most active guy, suffering from rheumatoid arthritis that attacked his feet and hands relentlessly, so it wouldn't be babysitting. He was a fine parent but I find my sensibilities more in sync with peers than my parents' generation when it comes to child-rearing issues, making it hard to imagine turning to him for advice in that way. Continuity perhaps, a connection or reinforcement of family in history, story and traditions? Maybe it is the fulfillment of my relationship with him, producing the next generation for his approval?

I find myself drawn instinctively to men of my father's generation, with older children and more life experience than me. One friend reminds me of my dad, in his looks, movement and speech, and in his life story. Another has the presence I would want from my dad — calm, assured, thoughtful with great insight into the emotional struggles of life.

I could turn to these men, or others I know, for support. They offer me some vague insight into how my dad might have seen things, evaluated me as a parent or engaged with his grandchildren. They won't be the same, though, as my father if he were around.

In the end, I think we each get one dad, one person who fills that role for us, and though we may find others to fill our emotional and psychological needs, there's no replacement. Whatever the relationship I had with my father — adversarial, competitive, tense, or loving — that is the one I'm stuck with, that I'm always carrying with me and responding to in my interactions with older men.

As my father did to me, I'm casting a shadow on my daughters that they are stuck with. Throughout their lives, my girls may find people to guide, encourage, and help them in ways I don't or can't, but someday, when I've departed their lives, my kids may look for someone to fill the outline of my shadow. In some ways they will be able to accomplish this, but in others, there will always be those spaces left unfilled.

Father's Day is certainly a celebration, but it also reminds me of the unique responsibility that comes with being a dad.

Brooklyn Paper *Classifieds*

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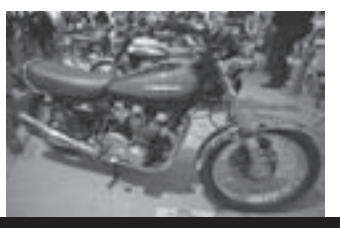

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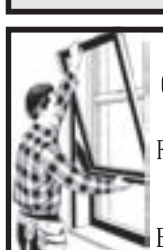

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